APTIV-1301.01
Patent

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (original)   A method for obtaining information from a set-top box comprising:

using a graphical user interface (GUI) on a computer to input a unique identifier for said set-top box;

using said unique identifier to establish a connection across a network between said computer and said set-top box;

querying for one or more internal states of said set-top box; and

receiving said internal states at said computer, in response.

2.   (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said internal states include a diagnostic state.

3.   (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said network comprises a first and second network layer.

4.   (original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said first network layer is an intranet.

3

APTIV-1301.01
Patent

5.   (original)   The method of claim 4 wherein said intranet includes one or more set-top boxes connected to one or more cable outlets, which are in turn connected to one or more nodes, which are in turn connected to an application server.

6.   (original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said second network layer is an Internet.

7.   (original) ·   The method of claim 3 wherein said second network layer is an intranet.

8.   (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said GUI comprises a web page.

9.   (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said unique identifier comprises an IP address, a MAC address, or a serial number.

10.   (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of querying further comprises:

generating a script at said computer·

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